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**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE SCHOOL TEACHER ARRAIGNED ON INDICTMENT FOR
PRODUCING, DISTRIBUTING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that KARSTEN GRONWOLD, 49, of South Lake Tahoe, was arraigned today by Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows on a 10-count indictment charging him with producing, distributing, and possessing depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. GRONWOLD, who is being held without bail, was arraigned today and pleaded not guilty. He is scheduled to appear before United States District Judge William B. Shubb at 9:00 A.M. on October 18, 2006, for a status conference.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department as a part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). Project Safe Childhood is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the incidences of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies to enhance law enforcement's presence on the Internet, and to educate the public and children about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the chance children will fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for producing a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct is 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years. (These minimum and maximum penalties assume that the image was produced in 2001 before the United States Congress increased statutory penalties for this offense.) The maximum penalty for distributing child pornography is 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum term of five years. The maximum penalty for possessing such images is 10 years in prison. In total, the maximum penalty GRONWOLD faces if convicted of all charges in the indictment is 190 years in prison. However, the actual sentence imposed by the court will take into account the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and a number of other factors.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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